

**Zurich Classic of New Orleans
English Turn Golf Course
New Orleans, LA
April 27, 2006**

First-round tournament quotes:

AN INTERVIEW WITH OLIN BROWNE

THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Olin, for joining us for a few minutes here in the media center at the Zurich Classic of New Orleans. A great start out there this morning. Why don't you just talk about your round a little bit, and then we'll go into questions.

OLIN BROWNE: I don't have very much to say. Today was a pretty solid day. I hit the ball nicely. I think I missed one fairway, and a couple, three greens. I got some momentum early, a couple birdies early. Not too many mistakes. I made a bogey on 17.

Other than that, I was having a pretty reasonable attempt at birdie on pretty much every hole, until I chucked my wedge on the last, but I got up and down, and it's all good.

THE MODERATOR: Questions?

Q. Where did you leave some shots?

OLIN BROWNE: I only played the par-5s 1-under today. I missed the green long left on No. 2.

And I had more area to cover than I had green to work with, and downwind, so I didn't get up and down there.

I missed a couple makeable putts on the other two par-5's.

I birdied No. 11.

Q. Are you playing maybe harder than a normal day.

OLIN BROWNE: No, I don't think so.

Q. Tell us something about the wind.

OLIN BROWNE: The wind is in an unusual direction right now. It's not often we got get to play like 18 downwind left into the wind. Normally that's kind of down left-to-right. So it's a little bit of an unusual wind.

The greens are softer than they are normally out here, so there is plenty of opportunities to attack pins with short irons on par-4's. That's where I made my hay today, instead of on the par-5's.

Q. Did you notice anything different about the course from the last time you played?

OLIN BROWNE: No, not really. It's in pretty good condition all things considered. I think that, you know, the storm punished this place a little bit. The greens are maybe a little bit rougher

than they have been in the past. I noticed they are not overseeded this year, straight Bermuda. I think the course is in terrific shape considering everything this town had to go through for the last several months.

Q. Lucas mentioned the greens are smaller?

OLIN BROWNE: That's probably because he played Houston last week. The greens looked like helipads.

(Laughter).

No, I wouldn't say they are any smaller. They are angled. It hadn't occurred to me though. They played bigger because they were softer.

THE MODERATOR: Do you want him to go through his card?

OLIN BROWNE: I started on 10, got off to a good start, hit a good shot in there on 10, missed about a 10-footer for birdie.

Then I birdied the next 3 holes, which is great. Hit it right in front of the green on 11, got it up and down.

I hit a very nice little cut 8-iron into No. 12 about three and a half feet and made it.

I had about a 5 or 6, 7-footer on the next hole and made it. That just gets the flow going.

I made a bogey on 17. I was playing into the wind. It was a difficult shot 205. I tried to roast a 3-iron in there, pulled it. I did not get it up and down but then birdied 18. I hit an 8-iron in there about five feet and hit a good wedge on one to about 15 feet and made a nice putt. I think was my longest putt today, 15 or 18 feet.

Where did I make another birdie? Four or five? 4, I hit a lob wedge in there about ten feet, maybe 11 feet and made it.

And then birdied No. 8. I hit an 8-iron to about 12 to 14 feet just left of the hole.

Q. Had the wind died any by the time you got to 8?

OLIN BROWNE: No, it was straight down. I had 169. It's a big 7-iron, or a light 6, and I hit an 8-iron so it was blowing pretty well at that point. It's swirling a little bit. It's probably a half a club now.

We teed off, it was blowing pretty nicely.

Q. Can you without any demonstrations give me an update on your hand?

OLIN BROWNE: My hand has a minor tear in the ligament, the lateral, collateral ligament of the third finger of my right hand, which is the ligament that attaches it to the hand. I'm doing the best I can to keep it intact.

Q. How do you keep it intact, tape it up?

OLIN BROWNE: No, it's kinesio tape and it's criss -crossing and it's wrapped around. It just stabilizes the finger at the joint of the knuckle there.

Q. How did you do it?

OLIN BROWNE: Who knows? I wish I had a good answer for to you.

Q. Wear and tear?

OLIN BROWNE: I guess. Probably trying to hit the ball longer than I should.

Q. Are you going to have surgery?

OLIN BROWNE: I hope not. I laid off the Florida swing because of it. I was unable to play Doral, Honda and Bay Hill and Tucson. So I took off a month there and played THE PLAYERS Championship, Atlanta and Augusta. You know, it really responded pretty well to the rest. But a certain amount of discomfort and returned after that.

So we had to readdress the method whereby we tape it, how we tape it and this is a much better way. I was taping 2 fingers together. In fact, I had to get approval from the USGA to make it legal. But this seems to be a more stable tape job.

Q. How did you have it taped before?

OLIN BROWNE: Just two fingers together, these two fingers.

Q. Is that's against USGA?

OLIN BROWNE: No. There is a rule in the rule book about taping fingers to improve your grip. Being this is an injury, I consulted with Slugger White and Mark Russell and they consulted with the USGA and got approval for it.

Q. Did you get around the course on Tuesday before the rains?

OLIN BROWNE: No, I played 9 holes, I played the front 9.

Q. You couldn't tell if the greens were more receptive before or after the rain?

OLIN BROWNE: Yes, they were more receptive. They were very receptive.

THE MODERATOR: Everybody all set?

Q. It felt good today?

OLIN BROWNE: Yes, it feels better. It felt good last week. There is discomfort. I loosen it up. I'm going to go, after I'm done today and ice it up.

Q. Can you move it, can you bend it, is it flexible?

OLIN BROWNE: Do you want me to show you? Yes, I can. It's elastic type tape. All it really does is stabilize it.

Q. When does it go away?

OLIN BROWNE: I don't know. Does it not hurt? It doesn't do anything except to hit a golf shot. I guess the torque, the power swing of mine.

Q. In a best case scenario by the fall or something?

OLIN BROWNE: I'm really motivated to keep it out of the rough, out of divots, out of bunkers and stuff like that. I don't know, they said that the healing process was four to six weeks, and I rested it for a month, well, three weeks, and it didn't quite do the job.

There is a lot of nice tournaments to play during the course of the year. I figure I will rest it at the end of the season if I have to.

Q. What did you do, swing at all?

OLIN BROWNE: No, it's not that big a deal, it's really not.

Q. Well, we are making it one. You first felt this when?

OLIN BROWNE: Probably early in the year back at The Hope, maybe.

THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Olin, for joining us.
